

Appl. No. 10/730,143
Reply to Office Action of June 12, 2007

REMARKS:

By the present amendment, claim 1 has been amended, and claims 2, 6-7, and 11-19 have been canceled. Claims 1, 3-5, and 8-10 are currently pending in the application.

1. Rejection of claim 1, 3-5 and 8-10 under 35 U. S. C. 112

Claims 1, 3-5, 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112. Amended claim 1 has been submitted as follows. Claims 3-5, 8, and 10 depend from amended claim 1 and claim 9 depend from claim 8.

Amended Claim 1 incorporates the limitation of the formula (H) in an amount from 10^{-4} mol to 0.3 mol per mole of non-photosensitive organic silver salt according to the specification of the present application. This is supported by the description at page 172, line 4 of the present specification.

2. Rejection of claims 1, 3-5 and 8-10 under 35 U. S. C. 103(a) over the combination of Toya et al (US Patent No. 5,998,126), Siga et al (US Patent No. 4,332,889), Toya et al (US Patent No. 5,656,419), Suzuki et al (US Patent No. 4,211,839), EP 1096310, Matsumoto et al (US Patent No. 5,958,126), and Toya et al (US Patent No. 5,656,419)

Amended Claim 1 incorporates the limitation of the photothermographic material containing a phthalazine compound.

Further, amended claim 1 incorporates the limitation such that the structure of a compound represented by the formula (H) is $Q(Y)_nCBr_3$ wherein Q represents an aryl group, or a heterocyclic group; Y represents a sulfonyl group; n represents 0 or 1.

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Furthermore, amended claim incorporates the limitations of a bisphenol reducing agent-1 represented by formula (R-1), a bisphenol reducing agent-2 represented by formula (R-2) or (R-3). Amended Claim 1 incorporates the limitation of compound (R-1), wherein R1 and R1' of (R-1) are limited as a t-butyl group, an isopropyl group, or a 1-methylcyclohexyl group, and L-bonding group is limited to an unsubstituted methylene group or a methylene group substituted by a methyl group, a propyl group, or an isopropyl group, the limitation of compound (R-2), wherein R11 and R11' of (R-2) are limited to a t-butyl group, an isopropyl group, or a 1-methylcyclohexyl group, R12 and R12' are limited to an ethyl group, a propyl group, or an isopropyl group; and L-bonding group is limited to an unsubstituted methylene group or a methylene group substituted by a methyl group, a propyl group, or an isopropyl group, and R21 and R21' of (R-3) are limited to a methyl group or an ethyl group, and R22 and R22' are limited to a methyl group, an ethyl group, a propyl, or an isopropyl group, and L-bonding group is limited to an alkyl-substituted methylene group or an unsubstituted methylene group.

The invention of amended claim 1 is in essence characterized by a photothermographic material comprising a silver halide containing silver iodide in an amount of 70% to 100% by mole, a bisphenol reducing agent-1 represented by formula (R-1), a bisphenol reducing agent-2 represented by formula (R-2) or (R-3), and further an organic polyhalogen compound represented the formula (H) which is used in the amount described above, and furthermore a phthalazine compound. According to amended claim 1, unexpectedly remarkable improvements of particular color tone of the silver image and photothermographic storability are obtained due to the combination described above.

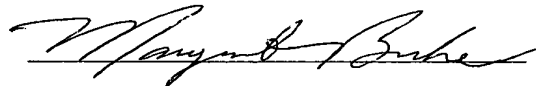
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The Examiner states that the results presented in the argument submitted on May 30, 2007 fail to overcome the prima facie case of obviousness rejection.

Submitted herewith is a Declaration pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.132. The Declaration pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.132 shows unexpectedly remarkable improvements in color tone of the silver image and unexpected improvements in photothermographic storability of the photothermographic materials of amended claim 1. Together with the amendments to claim 1, it is believed that all outstanding rejections have been overcome.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, claims 1, 3-5, and 8-10 are hereby submitted to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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